

HELEN KELLER

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY



**Books by and about Helen Keller
with a special section on children's books**



AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND, INC.

Anne Sullivan Macy: The Story Behind Helen Keller by Nella Braddy.

Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1934. 365p., index, photo illustrations.

A biography of Anne Sullivan Macy, teacher of Helen Keller, based mainly on her conversations with the author, Helen Keller's literary advisor. The work relates Anne's poverty stricken childhood, her blindness, life at the Tewksbury Asylum, and her dream of education finally realized at the Perkins Institution. After graduation Anne becomes teacher to deaf, blind, and wild Helen Keller, a child of almost seven. Helen Keller learns the manual alphabet and grows up to graduate from Radcliffe College, cum laude. Anne marries a brilliant Harvard instructor and literary critic. After a brief period of happiness, Anne's marriage comes to an end. Left alone, the two women, assisted by secretary Polly Thomson, go on the lecture circuit and the vaudeville stage. Eventually, they join the American Foundation for the Blind as fund raisers and lecturers. As Anne's health declines, she confides her recollections and gives access to important letters and documents to the author. Anne Sullivan Macy's death occurred three years after publication of their work.

Double Blossoms, compiled by Edna Porter. New York: Lewis Copeland, 1931. 96p., one portrait drawing illustration.

An anthology of poems to Helen Keller by American and foreign admirers.

The Faith of Helen Keller—The Life of a Great Woman, with selections from her writings, edited by Jack Belck. Kansas City, MO: Hallmark Cards, Inc., 1967. 61p., color illustrations.

The book reflects the life of Helen Keller through selections from her writings. The works chosen reveal Helen's great courage and express the deep religious faith that was the main source of her strength. Though blind and deaf, Helen Keller wrote fluently, eloquently and with great understanding.

Helen and Teacher: The Story of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy

by Joseph P. Lash. New York: Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence, 1980. 811p., index, bibliography, photo illustrations.

Joseph Lash used unpublished materials from the archives of the American Foundation for the Blind to tell the life stories of both Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy, the educator who devoted her life to her and whom Helen called, simply, "Teacher." It traces the two lives from the 1860s and Anne Sullivan's childhood in a poorhouse to Helen Keller's death in 1968. Helen was to come into contact with such remarkable men as Alexander Graham Bell, Mark Twain and Charlie Chaplin as well as kings, artists, and writers. Her career and alliances took her from country to country and inspired many. The biography reveals Helen's involvement with socialism and pacifism and her vaudeville career. Minor incidents in her life are described and quotations given from many letters and journals. The author describes Anne's battles with various individuals who threatened to separate her from Helen and her stormy marriage to John Macy. The heart of the story is the magnificent relationship between Helen and Anne, one marked by wisdom, devotion, sacrifice, love and accomplishment.

Helen Keller: Her Socialist Years, writings and speeches edited and with an introduction by Philip S. Foner. New York: International Publishers, 1967. 128p.

A collection of Helen Keller's political and social writings and speeches. Topics include birth control, women's suffrage, pacifism, the labor movement, the Soviet Union, and Helen Keller's reasons for joining the Socialist Party.

Helen Keller in Scotland by Helen Keller. Edited by James Kerr Love, M.D., LL.D. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1933. 212p., photo illustrations.

A collection of letters and speeches on the occasion of the presentation by the University of Glasgow of an honorary degree to Helen Keller in 1932. In the first section, "My Pilgrimage," Miss Keller describes her impressions of Cornwall and Scotland. The letters, many of them addressed to the editor, start in 1910. The speeches were presented at various ceremonies during 1932.

Helen Keller's Journal, 1936-1937 by Helen Keller. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1938. 313p., index.

Anne Sullivan Macy, Helen Keller's teacher, died on October 20, 1936. Helen learns to accept her sorrow and to go on with her life. With her companion, Polly Thomson, she sails for Europe on November 4. They encounter old friends and make new ones among intellectuals, artists, and politicians, as well as leaders in fields relating to the welfare of deaf and blind persons. Anne's presence is felt as Helen reminisces of a previous trip and revisits places. Helen finds a new purpose in life when she accepts an invitation to visit Japan on behalf of the deaf and the blind of that country, but is troubled by international political events

and disasters at home. On April 14, 1937, "Teacher's" birthday, as she prepares to disembark on Japan's shores, Helen feels the tragedy of Anne's death but also the encouragement of her spiritual presence.

Helen Keller: Sketch for a Portrait by Van Wyck Brooks. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., 1956. 166p.

A biography based on the friendship between the author and Helen Keller. Helen Keller's own recollections are supplemented by those of her companion, Polly Thomson, and of her literary advisor and friend, Nella Braddy Henney.

Helen Keller Under the Southern Cross, Part I by Arthur William Blaxall; Part II by Helen Keller. Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa: Juta & Co. Ltd., 1952. 50p., photo illustrations.

Helen Keller toured South Africa and Southern Rhodesia at the invitation of Mr. Blaxall. His description is supplemented by Helen's impressions of "An Unforgettable Tour." The Zulus called her "Nomveselelo" and the Sothos "Matsoseletso," both names meaning "You have aroused the consciences of many."

Let Us Have Faith by Helen Keller. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1940. 78p. This book discusses the religious, politico-social, and philosophical significance of faith. Notable believers and agnostics are cited.

Midstream: My Later Life by Helen Keller. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1929. 347p., index, photo illustrations.

In a previous book, *The Story of My Life*, Helen Keller told the story of her childhood and of her admission to Radcliffe College. "Midstream" starts with

her graduation in 1904 and covers the next quarter of a century. During that period Helen starts a literary career and a farm at Wrentham, Massachusetts. Her teacher, Anne Sullivan, marries Harvard instructor John Macy. Life is rich in friendship and physical and intellectual work. Several of Helen's essays are published. Helen appears before the Massachusetts Legislature and, unwittingly, enters the career that is to be her life work. Anne's marriage disintegrates. Financial necessities send Helen and Anne on a lecture tour, accompanied first by Helen's mother, then by secretary Polly Thomson. In 1918 they go to Hollywood to make a film. In 1920 they go into vaudeville and are criticized for it. It brings them new fame and money, but while Helen enjoys the life, Anne hates it. In 1924, Helen, Anne, and Polly join the American Foundation for the Blind as lecturers and fundraisers. In the final chapter Helen praises her teacher.

The Miracle Worker, a play for television by William Gibson. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957. 131p.

An adapted version of the CBS "Playhouse 90" production. Nineteen-month-old Helen Keller loses her sight and hearing. Unable to express herself, she becomes uncontrollable until, five years later, teacher Anne Sullivan, using the manual alphabet of the deaf-blind, unlocks the door of communication for the child.

Monday After the Miracle: A Play in Three Acts by William Gibson. New York: Atheneum, 1983. 139p.

In this sequel to his earlier play, "The Miracle Worker," William Gibson takes another look at the lives of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan. The play is set during

the period of Anne's marriage to John Macy.

My Key of Life by Helen Keller (same as *Optimism*). New York: T.Y. Crowell, 1926. 61p.

Helen Keller's first book, originally published in 1903, analyzes her own inclination toward optimism. Advocating intelligent optimism, she compares life in the "good old times" to present improvements in the human condition. She also comments on the lack of progress in countries dominated by fatalism.

My Religion by Helen Keller. New York: Swedenborg Foundation, 1974. 126p., photo illustrations.

Paperback reprint of the original edition (Doubleday, Page & Co., 1927). New introduction by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. Helen Keller's spiritual awakening occurs when a kindly old friend, John Hitz, introduces her to the writings of the Swedish theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg. She finds courage and comfort in the universalism and mysticism of his religious beliefs.

The Open Door by Helen Keller, Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1957. 140p. Philosophical and religious reflections of Helen Keller, excerpted from several of her books.

Optimism by Helen Keller. (See *My Key of Life*.)

Out of the Dark by Helen Keller. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1913. 282p., one portrait illustration.

A collection of essays, letters, and addresses dealing with the author's socialism and with some of the social

problems of her time. Women's emancipation and suffrage are discussed, as well as prevention of blindness and aspirations of blind and deaf persons.

Peace at Eventide by Helen Keller. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1951. 46p. Philosophical and religious thoughts to comfort those in mourning. (*We Bereaved* is the title of the American edition, NY: Leslie Fulenwider, 1929.)

People of Destiny: Helen Keller by Norman Richard. Chicago: Children's Press, 1968. 94p., index, bibliography, black & white photos and illustrations. Helen Keller expressed the will to learn because she saw society as a thing in motion. A woman of unbending will and inexhaustible energy, she possessed wide-ranging curiosity. She proves that a person who cannot hear, see or speak can still acquire a college education and share in the history, culture and intellectual life of one's world. Helen inspired others to learn as she had learned and to be an active part of the world as she had. She devoted her life to helping others with similar handicaps and her efforts produced far-reaching results.

The Song of the Stone Wall, a poem by Helen Keller. New York: Century Co., 1910. 80p., photo illustrations.

Helen Keller recalls her experience in helping to build a stone wall at her home in Wrentham, Massachusetts. She evokes the ancient wall builders of New England. The walls are a symbol of their faults and virtues.

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller. New York: Airmont, 1965. 280p., one drawing portrait illustration, facsimile of handwritten letter and of braille manuscript.

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller. New York: Dell, 1964. 416p. Foreword by Eleanor Roosevelt, index, two photo illustrations, facsimile of braille manuscript. Both are paperback editions.

Reprint of the original serial, *Ladies' Home Journal*, 1902, supplemented in 1904 with letters by Helen Keller (1887-1901) and letters and writings of Helen's life and education during that period by Anne Sullivan. Editorial comments by John Albert Macy.

Teacher: Anne Sullivan Macy by Helen Keller. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1955. 247p., black and white photo illustrations. An intimate account of the relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy.

The Three Lives of Helen Keller by Richard Narrity and Ralph G. Martin. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1962. 189p., photo illustrations, news clippings, etc.

A pictorial biography of Helen Keller, with accompanying text and quotations.

We Bereaved by Helen Keller. New York: Leslie Fulenwider, 1929. 39p. See *Peace at Eventide*.

The World I Live In by Helen Keller. NY: Century, 1908. 195p., four photo illustrations. Twenty-five autobiographical essays and one poem on the author's appreciation of her remaining senses and her dreams.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Anne Sullivan: A Portrait by Terry Dunnahoo. Chicago: Reilly and Lee Books, 1970. 155p. (*gr. 4-6*)

Anne Sullivan, the woman chiefly responsible for teaching Helen Keller to read, write, and communicate, had her own handicaps, a cruel, impoverished childhood and partial blindness. This biography traces Anne Sullivan's life through her hardships at Tewksbury, a grim institution that was her girlhood home, to the later years as Helen Keller's companion.

The Courage of Helen Keller by Francene Sabin. Mahwah, NJ: Troll Associates, 1982. 48p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 4-6*).

This book portrays the courage Helen Keller showed in learning how to communicate with the world and how that courage led her to help others and to demonstrate that the deaf and blind can learn.

The Finger Game Miracle by Nancy Kelton. Milwaukee, WI: Raintree Publishers Ltd., 1977. 31p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. K-3*)

Large type, juvenile biography of Helen Keller. Focuses on the early tumultuous interaction between Helen and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, culminating in the communication breakthrough with the word, "water."

Helen Keller by Eileen Bigland. Springfield, MA: Phillips, 1967. 192p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 7-10*)
A detailed biography of Helen Keller.

Helen Keller by Margaret Davidson. NY: Hastings House, 1971. 95p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 2-4*)

Helen Keller is educated by Anne Sullivan. Each anecdote illustrates a step toward the child's understanding of the world. The focus of the book is on Helen's early years.

The Helen Keller Story by Catherine Owens Peare. NY: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1959. 183p., selected bibliography and index, illustration of the manual alphabet used by deaf-blind persons. (*gr. 5 & up*)

The author describes Helen's early years under the tutelage of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. After a successful career on the lecture platform and the vaudeville stage, Helen devotes her life to promoting services for the blind and deaf-blind of the world.

Helen Keller: From Tragedy to Triumph by Katherine E. Wilkie. New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1969. 192p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 2 & up*)
This juvenile biography, focuses on the childhood years of Helen Keller.

Helen Keller: Girl From Alabama by Patty T. Johnson. Huntsville, AL: Strode Publishers, 1980. 64p. photo illustrations. (*gr. 4-6*)

Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama in 1880. Her seemingly sunny infancy was darkened by blindness and deafness when she was 19 months old. Between 1946 and 1957, Helen visited 35 countries on five continents. Her years were filled with struggle, passion and ambition, qualities that enhanced her

growth from girl to woman. The little girl from Alabama was destined to accomplish much more in her life than mere communication.

Helen Keller: Lives to Remember by John William and Anne Tibble. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1957. 95p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 5 & up*) Beginning and ending with memories of Helen Keller, this biography portrays Helen's early life, the years at college and gives an account of her world travels. The task of teaching Helen how to understand and communicate with the world around her became an experiment for her teacher, Anne Sullivan. Described are the incredible difficulties experienced by an unpredictable child who could neither see nor hear nor speak and the means by which these handicaps were overcome.

Helen Keller's Teacher by Margaret Davidson. New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1972. 153p., Illustrations. (*gr. 4-6*) The author sheds light on the life of Anne Sullivan, who opened the doors to Helen Keller's life by teaching her to read, to write, and to live a full life. In this biography Anne floods Helen's hands with words and her mind with courage and spirit.

Helen Keller: Toward the Light by Stewart and Polly Ann Graff. New Canaan, CT: Garrard, 1965. 79p., color illustrations. (*gr. 2-7*) A blind and deaf child of seven, Helen Keller cannot communicate and behaves wildly. Teacher Anne Sullivan, using the manual alphabet, gives her language and Helen goes on to become the first deaf-blind person in the world to receive a college degree.

The Silent Story by Marion Marsh Brown and Ruth Crone. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1963. 250p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 6 & up*)

When the story begins, 20-year-old Anne Sullivan reminisces of her youth before meeting the deaf-blind girl, Helen Keller, whose teacher she is to become. It ends after Helen's graduation from Radcliffe College, when Anne accepts a marriage proposal from Harvard instructor John Macy.

The Story of Helen Keller by Lorena A. Hickok. NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 1958. 181p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. 4-6*) Teacher Anne Sullivan gives seven-year-old deaf and blind Helen Keller the manual alphabet as a usable language. Helen's education continues with success in spite of many difficulties. She graduates from Radcliffe College and pursues a life of service to the handicapped people of the world.

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller. West Haven, Ct: Pendulum Press, 1976. 62p., black and white illustrations. (*gr. K-3*) Short excerpts from the original work. Helen Keller, a precocious child, loses her sight and hearing. She is educated by Anne Sullivan and others.

Touch of Magic—The Story of Helen Keller's Great Teacher: Anne Sullivan by Lorena A. Hickok. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1961. 184p. (*gr. 4-6*) Anne Sullivan brought order to the life of Helen Keller by teaching the power of communication through the sense of touch. The book traces the course of the relationship that developed between teacher and pupil.

Valiant Companions: Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy by Helen E. Waite. Turbotville, PA: Macrae Smith Co. 223p., bibliography. (gr. 7-11)

Anne Sullivan, graduate of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, has had surgery and regained some vision. She accepts an offer to teach deaf and blind Helen Keller. Together they overcome the many difficulties caused by their handicaps. They join the American Foundation for the Blind and serve its cause. After Anne's death, Helen continues to work, assisted by companion Polly Thomson.

The Value of Determination by Ann Donegan Johnson. San Diego, CA: Value Communications, c/o Oak Tree Publications, 1976. 62p., color illustrations. (gr. K-6) Blind, deaf, and unable to speak, Helen Keller cannot communicate her feelings. Teacher Anne Sullivan shares Helen's determination to conquer her handicaps. The example of Helen Keller inspires everyone.

Young Helen Keller book and record set by Carol Joan Drexler. Mahwah, NJ: Educational Reading Service, 1970. storybook illustrated in color. 45rpm unbreakable record. (gr. K-3)

The book is designed to be read along as the record tells the story of Helen Keller's life. The storybook begins with the illness that left Helen blind and deaf at the age of 19 months and continues through the hardships, struggles and glories that she experienced while growing up.

The Young Helen Keller by Norman Wymer. London: Max Parrish and Co., 1965. 142p. (gr. 2-7)

A biography that describes how a deaf and blind child's world became a terrifying reality for her parents, Captain and Mrs. Keller. The work relates how Anne Sullivan, Helen's parents' last hope, was able to transform a wild, seemingly unteachable child into the gentle and intelligent woman who later helped others in similar life situations.

Compiled by Marguerite L. Levine and Karen H. Schuurmans

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1921 to help improve the standards of service for blind and visually impaired people. Well known as the cause supported by Helen Keller, AFB provides direct assistance and referral services in partnership with over 700 specialized agencies, as well as public schools, universities, senior centers, and businesses. AFB is headquartered in New York City, with regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, New York and Washington, DC.



American Foundation for the Blind
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